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April 3, 2001 LB 668

of the amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the opening on AM1182. Open for discussion. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Senator Hilgert, could I ask you a question?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Just...just out of curiosity, you...I think you indicated, but I didn't quite catch it, there was (laugh) so much noise over here. Did...is...is this going to be enough money for them to carry out the program? I mean, are we going to...this encourage them, I think that you said, if I heard you right.

SENATOR HILGERT: Yeah.

SENATOR VRTISKA: But is this enough money to move ahead?

SENATOR HILGERT: Yes, it is. In fact, the department had unilaterally went to the lowest number in that range, five to two thousand dollars, and that still wasn't low enough. They say that this is fine; they don't anticipate a whole lot of people doing this; this should cover it. Again, we had the hearing, in fact, I've been in contact...my office has been in contact with Health and Human Services since, frankly, summer. I was hoping to do this by regulation and not by statute. So, no indication of any problems whatsoever.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Okay, okay. I...I just wanted to hear what I thought you...what you said. (Laughter) Thank you.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you for your diligence, Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, I turn the rest of my time back to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Further discussion on the Hilgert amendment to LB 668? Seeing none,